southern california dx club

April 2005

The SCDXC welcomes Spring. Yes, it means the end of those early morning long path openings—but, it brings the promise of DXpeditions, and long summer days to raise those new towers and prepare for the Fall Contest Season. Don't forget the Summer bash and the Picnic in the Park. And, best of all, the International DX CONVENTION IN Visalia.

Soap Box— Words from our President

So has anyone actually heard FT5XO? I know some of you have and a few have even worked them but so far nothing in my log. But even without them in the log I have been learning a lot during their operation so far. Now remember as I write this they have only been on for a short time, but it's always fun to listen to a bunch of 1x2 extras down on 7.070 calling out of band. They are so anxious to make a contact they don't even remember to hit the split button. I know we have all done this but to do it for an hour straight?

I know for most of the seasoned DXer's in the club this stuff goes without saying but some of you may have forgot and we have gained some members in the last few years (thanks Larry) that are new to the DX game and this may be helpful to them. Rule number on of a successful DXer is LISTEN!, LISTEN! and LISTEN! some more. You will work far more DX by using your ears and paying attention to what the DX is saying than you will blindly throwing your call into the pileup over and over again. If you will listen you will hear the DX telling you he is listening up 5, listening 210 to 220, or that he is calling for Europe only, or for 6's, 2' s etc.

Not long ago I related this sage advice to, at that time a new member of the club and a week or so later he was busting at the seams to tell me that listening really works. It seems he was trying to bust a big pileup and not making any progress when he decided to get his enthusiasm in check and try listening. The DX had a huge pileup going and was listening 200 to 220. Sure enough in a little while the DX said QRZ now listening 211. The member quickly set the VFO and gave his call on 211. The DX immediately came back with "W6*** you're the only one listening, your 59 QSL" A little bit of listening and the member had an all time new one in the log.

Another thing that is good to remember is that amateur radio is a hobby, it's not life and death. If you feel you blood pressure rising when you hear the lid cops or the jerk calling CQ in CW for an hour over the DX station working split on 40m, just stop, go to another band or take a break and get a cup of coffee. If you t

(Continued on page 9)

de the Veep

Just in case you forgot....ITS VISALIA TIME! We only have a short few weeks to go. I'll be rested and ready to visit and do lots of laughing. Miracle of miracles, K6ZPL is ready and waiting for her 2nd DX Convention and the opportunity to see the friends she made last year. We are looking forward to 3 fun filled days.

Our March meeting was well attended and very informative for me. Although I take N6OX to and from the airport, I always learn more from his presentations. He gave a nice slide show of his trip to the tip of Chile and the town of Ushuaia, the southern most city in south America. We all know the 3Y0X, Peter 1 trip was canceled at the last possible minute. Bob was very disappointed but gave a good look at some of the preparations and travel required for such a big operation to a remote land and the chance to give many of us "a new one".

When I asked for a show of hands from club members who were going to Visalia, Bob's disappointment was evident.....he was the only one in the room that did not raise his hand. Bubba went on to ask for help and lift his spirits and get him to Visalia. Yup! We did it and he said he would be there. OK, Buckwheat, glad to see the smile back.

NEWS FLASH! I will take N6OX to LA airport on the 24th for a flight to Serbia & Montenegro (Yugoslavia). He will work a contest with YT6A and stay on for a few days and work YT6OX for a few more days and I will pick him up at LAX on April 5th. Make sure to give Bob some points and fill in the needed bands for the country. I wish Bob the best of luck and I am hoping the contest is not canceled. If all goes well we will have another great presentation at one of our SCDXC meetings.

OK for this month, Bubba sez.....see you in Visalia.

73 from the VP, W6ZPL

Secretaries Blurb

Yup! This is the Secretaries article. Nope, it's not Steve, it's me, Bubba, standing in for Steve.

Steve, W6NRQ, will be undergoing surgery and will be out of commission for a while. I hope he invites me to the cane burning party when everything is over. I will look forward to seeing Steve at the May meeting.

All in attendance had a great time at the March SCDXC meeting. There was a large table full of raffle prizes and many tickets sold. Ira (I'll fight em forever) pulled the first ticket. The Prez, N6DHZ was first picked and chose the Heil Handi Mic. Next was Marilyn, N6GIL, and she chose (with a little help from you know who) the Grundig Windup Radio. Jim, N6KZ, was next out of the bucket for a Daiwa CN-801 SWR/Power Meter. Congratulations to all the other winners.

OK Steve, I did my best and for all the members of the SCDXC, I want to wish you a speedy recovery and will look forward to seeing you walking tall soon.

Bubbas done, 73 and good DX!

WILD WOMEN TO GATHER IN VISALIA!!

The Wild Women will once again be heading out on Saturday at the International DX convention for a day of "Wild Women" adventure. Anyone interested in joining in on the fun should meet in the lobby of the John Jay hotel at 09:00am on Saturday.

The Wild Women will have to provide their own transportation this year (no bus) so if you have a van or large SUV bring it along.

For more information you can contact Marilyn, N6GIL at n6gil@scdxc.org

Next General Meeting

The SCDXC meets the second Thursday of the month. Our next meeting will be held May 12, 2005 Syd Kronenthal Park in Culver City at 7:30 PM. The park is located 4 blocks west of La Cienega Blvd. and 2 blocks south of Washington Blvd. From the 10 Freeway exit La Cienega south to Washington Blvd. Turn right (west) 4 blocks to McManus Ave (it's La Cienega Ave to the right, McManus to the left). Turn left (south) 2 blocks to the Park. The street dead-ends at the parking lot. Please do not park in the school lot.

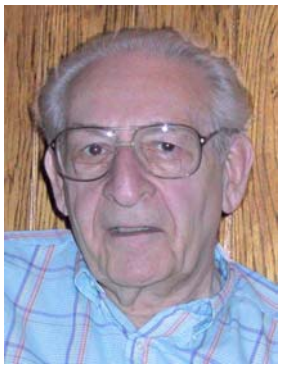
NO MEETING IN APRIL

2005 INTERNATIONAL DX CONVENTION

Apr 15-17,2005 - 2005 International DX Convention, sponsored by Northern California DX Club, will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center, Visalia, CA. Convention website: http://www.ncdxc.org/ Contact Dick Letrich, W6KM, 408-267-2624, dlw6km@aol.com

Propagation April 2005

by Shel, W6EL



These predictions for the five prime HF bands show the times when propagation is expected to be best from Los Angeles to several locations that are expected to be active during the coming month.
Other times are possible, but with weaker signals or lower probability. Openings are not expected on bands that are not listed. A solar flux of 87, corresponding to a sunspot number of 32, and an average geomagnetic field are assumed. Sunrise/sunset times are at the DX location. All times are UTC.

Good luck and good DX from Shel, W6EL.

XX9 Macao - 4/7 to 4/11 - Beam 311 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 4/9) 2215/1040
80: 1230-1300.
40: 1030-1330.
20: 1430-1700.
15: 2300-0300.

A5 Bhutan - 4/4 to 4/15 - Beam 333 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 4/10) 2344/1218
20: 1430-1600.
15: 0130-0200.

A2 Botswana - 4/6 to 4/20 - Beam 81 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 4/13) 0435/1603
40: 0230-0430.
20: 0000-0100.

9G Ghana - 4/18 to 4/25 - Beam 68 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 4/22) 0555/1807
80: 0330-0400.
40: 0200-0630.
20: 2300-0400.
15: 1830-2400.

SU Egypt - 4/23 to 5/1 - Beam 29 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 4/27) 0325/1627
20: 0230-0530 and around 0030.

EX Kyrgyzstan - 4/19 to 5/17 - Beam 351 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 5/3) 0003/1359
20: 2330-0400.

JT Mongolia - 4/20 to 5/8 - Beam 332 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 5/29) 2112/1236
20: 1000-1500.

The I.FI. S. & APE. DX activity news release.... Early April 1 edition.

The Iceburgs, Floating Islands, Surfboards, and Alternating Political Entities forwards notice that DXCC credited operations will commence April 1 of this year for sure for one hour only (each entity) maybe.

Iceburg 231 off Cuba will be activated on 10.110 SSB, working only stateside SSB April 1 at 0100 Z.

A yet-to-be-selected Floating Island will be activated (and pushed by outboard motor into a new DXCC location) at 0200Z on April 1... look around 50.125 up 25 to 40.

The Surfboard DX net will activate **Surfboard 769** with a kilowatt.... watch for more news on this one, but DXCC credit is probably likely definite, we think.

APE...Alternating Political Entities... will have eleven DX stations operating in eleven new political entities as recognized by the Confederate States of Am. as soon as the team of top operators from Burma can decide on a flag design. Again watch the DX nets for these new ones!

Best of good DX to all..... 73,

Chuckie

IOTA activity by Fred N6AWD

Starting April 7th for 4 days St. Peters island in South Australia will be activated, call sign VI5PN [OC-220]. QSL via VK3QI. This rare island was last activated in 1997.

Starting April 23rd for 7 days a team of Egyptians will activate an all time new island and first ever in Egypt. The call sign will be SU8IOTA from Nelson island. The group will consist of SU1HM SUISK [also the QSL manager for the operation] SU2TA and SU1SA.

Reminder, the 10th annual NO-HOST IOTA dinner will be held at the Holiday inn [Birch room] starting at 6 p.m. on Friday April 15th. More details are available on the Convention web page. Martin G3ZAY IOTA committee chairman will be there giving a presentation at the dinner.

This year's IOTA contest will take place on July 30th for 24 hours, a great time to put on an expedition to one of the islands off the California coast. The easiest one to get to is Santa Catalina island [NA-066].

* DXCC Honor Roll list deadline just ahead: The submission deadline to appear in the next DXCC Honor Roll list is March 31. Submissions must be postmarked by that date for your submission to qualify for this listing. The DXCC Honor Roll list will appear in the August QST. There are 335 entities on the DXCC list, and you must be within the numerical top 10 DXCC entities to qualify for Honor Roll. The current minimum requirement for Honor Roll is 326 current entities.

REPATER INFORMATION

Ed, N6OU, informed us that W6AM/R will be off the air for a few weeks as repairs are necessary at the site. This is expected in March/April. A special Bulletin will be published when the machine is off the air.

Members in JA

This morning, January 3, 2005, I worked Terry, W6/G3MHV from Fukuoka Japan on 40 meters. He tells me that he and his wife Mady, KP3YL, will be in Japan until the end of April. They are using the callsigns of 7J6ABN (Terry) and 7J6AAB (Mady). Both are very active on CW and would probably like to work as many club members as possible. Please pass this information on to the club in hopes that we can fulfill their wishes. 73 de Rich W6VX

BE AN AUTHOR

The Newsletter needs your help. Please send in articles of interest to the editor at harv@sedxc.org . Photos are always welcome.

HR 691 - Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act

Harv,
Below is a copy of the letter I sent to my House Representative Ms Diane Watson.
thx
Urban

From: Urban Stiess <urbane@att.net>
To: diane.watson@mail.house.gov
Subject: HR 691 - Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act
Date: Wed, 2 Mar 2005 21:36:53 +0000

Ms Watson:
As both a constituent and active Radio Operator - Amateur AND Commercial - I urge you to support HR 691, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act.

HR 691 references Amateur Radio's role in providing "voluntary, noncommercial radio service, particularly emergency communications" and it points out that hams have "consistently and reliably" provided communication support in the event of emergencies and disasters including tornadoes and hurricanes, chemical spills, forest fires and rail accidents. As the measure notes, FCC actions already have led to the loss of at least 107 MHz of spectrum to radio amateurs.

HR 691 would require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio if the FCC reallocates primary amateur frequencies, reduces any secondary amateur allocations, or makes additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce their utility to amateurs.

ARRL (Amateur Radio Relay League) President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, says the legislation "is vital for ensuring that the Amateur Radio Service, the only 100-percent fail safe emergency communication capability, remains a viable public safety option."

The text of HR 691 is available on the Government Printing Office Web site

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_cong_bills&docid=f:h691ih.txt.pdf.

Sincerely,
Urban E. Stiess, CBT, CBNT - W6MPB
5623 Adale Place
Los Angeles, CA 90043-2106
--
CSLB #: 842840
SBE #: 22887
FCC #: PG00010828
OSHA #: 000440805
Certified:
- Industrial
- RF Construction

Searching, Searching, FOUND IT!

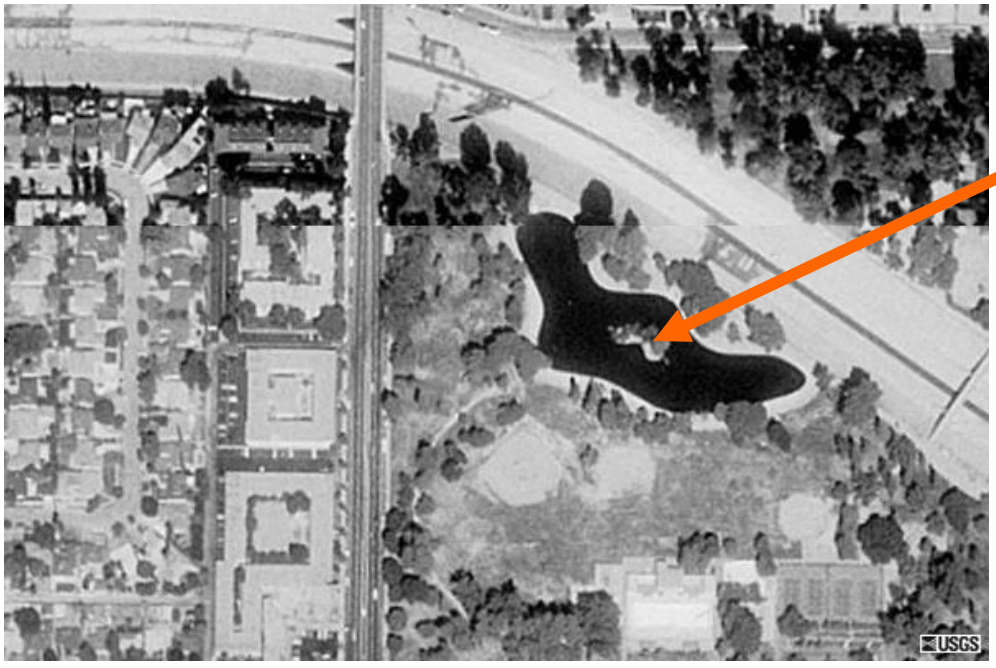
I could not help getting lazy and bored with DX country chasing. I am on the honor roll and do not need any more band fillers. That is until I read the recent articles by Fred in the Newsletter and discovered the IOTA program. I decided I wanted to work IOTA stuff the same way I had worked DX that first year I started the climb to Honor Roll. That would be simple and cheap stuff that a 12 year old could home brew. So, I rode my bike to the Radio Shack Store and was delighted to find a somewhat dusty Philmore XTAL. An auto wreaking yard was the source of a Ford spark coil. By 11 PM my receiver was finished and I had a spark coil for my transmitter wired to a key made from a corset spring. The xmiter was done before lunch the next day (left over pot roast and rye bread), the aerial was put up between two tall palms and I was ready to go. I sent out a string of CQ IOTA's for about six hours. Having run out of wine without a reply, I gave up for the night. Next day I switched to beer and the XYL made me some baloney sandwiches on Wonder bread (some with butter, some with Miracle Whip) and I spent seven hours calling CQ and "tuning the band". No cigar!

I realized that I needed an IOTA that was closer – easier to work. So the search began. The next morning I was walking with my buddy and his pooch when I literally stumbled across a new, unregistered IOTA. What I saw was a small island inhabited by water fowl and easily accessible from the main land. Because the inhabitants have been there for decades and no one has considered cleaning the place the island appears to be pretty slippery. I could not find the name of the island on any chart in the library. I would like to call it "SLIP ROCK" See the attached satellite photograph (taken in 1993 by the USCG service).

I just KNOW I can work that island with my rig and I want to propose that the SCDXC petition the IOTA guys in the UK to assign a number to SLIP ROCK.

When that happens, I will organize a 16 man DXpedition to the island. I checked and verified a seaworthy boat is available for our use. Sanitary facilities are also available – so is bug spray. The best part of this adventure – the participants will not have to contribute to the DXpedition fund. AND, you may bring your XYL as there are full recreational facilities for them and the kids.

See you from SLIP ROCK. 73



The proposed new IOTA is shown here.

Some IOTA hunters are convinced this could be the start of a wholly new class of Islands — the SIOTA—"Small IOTA"

Morse Code Increases I.Q.

By Ragnar Phlegm, Rutgers News Agency, S. A. (Exclusive to the SCDXC *Newsletter*)

After three years of intense research, the results are in: Morse code proficiency raises I.Q. by ten to fifteen percent.

Dr. Nimrod Kresge, of the New Brain Science Institute of Antwerp, conducted the study over three years. Dr. Kresge theorized that the brain hemisphere hopping characteristics of Morse operations provide endorphin secretions and synapse flexation.

During the 1930's, Dr. Vilmos Knabe, of the University of Chelm conducted an investigation regarding alternate-limb crawling in infants. Using the Stanley Acuity Test, he measured the average intelligence of infants who crawled with alternate right-leg, left-arm, and vice-versa movements Vs. infants who crawled right-right, left-left. His results convinced him that the crossing of the brain sections was instrumental in the development of intelligence in children.[1]

Dr. Kresge, like Archimedes, was taking a bath in his Antwerp home, when he experienced "tingling" sensations that he immediately recognized as Morse Code. "I had learned it as a boy in the *Jungen Fabriken Verbunden*," He recalled. Further investigation revealed that the high-powered transmitters of the local "*Hugonaut Stimme*" radio station excited Dr. Kresge's bath water.

This stimulation inspired him. Does not the art, the musicality of Morse originate in the right brain, and the manual manipulation in the left?[2]

Over the course of the study, infant intelligence was measured by the new Bobby Fischer Reykjavik intelligence assessment examination. A control group was given finger-painting activities, in a darkened room with no artistic stimulation. The results were dramatic and conclusive. "I Yumped for Yoy!" Dr. Kresge exclaimed.

The following week, Morse Code was taught to several individuals on an emergency basis. Roscoe Grift, 43, the infamous death row murderer, whose sentence was commuted after his dullness was revealed, was given six months of Morse Code instruction. Today, Mr. Grift has received notification that his book, "Move Over Hannibal," is being made into a miniseries by the Fox Channel.

LaVonda Expolungia, 44, emerged from a nine-year vegetative state after listening to Gordon West's code tapes. LaVonda is today inventing names for senders of spam email.

Hector Gomumbamumba, 37, an Amateur Radio Operator from Little Darfur, Iowa says: "My superior intelligence allows me to spot rare DX on the packet cluster just before it shows up. I always add a clever riposte like 'Wrkd wid 5W and Dipole.' I owe it all to the Candler method of international Morse."

Dr. Kresge is currently producing an infomercial, and is teaching Morse code to Opra and Jerry Springer.

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1. Organdy, Naranjo, Child in Circles, 1932 The Couch and Kleenex, Journal of the Psychiatric Society of Turkey. Organdy disputed Knabe's study, arguing that children who crawled right-right, left-left never got anywhere.
Keebler, Hans, Brain Studies, 1929 The New Journal of the Hippocampus: Keebler worked with a guillotine replicator who had a freak accident while working on a magic act for "Circus Paris." His right and left brains were separated. He was able to receive Morse code, but couldn't figure out what it said, and he could send nonsense beautifully with his left hand, and in broken Serbian with his right.

--end—

First Annual Long Path Propagation Checkers Dinner

The Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Long-Path International DX Society (LIDS) is pleased to announce the first annual Long Path Propagation Checkers Dinner to be held Sunday night at the 56th International DX Convention in Visalia.

The festivities will be held extremely close to the hotel proper but not quite on the hotel property. The dinner will include a hosted bar by the 14.1965Mhz propagation net, and will feature fine cuisine from Africa the Middle East and Indian Ocean. The fun begins promptly 23:59z and will continue over and over and over.

The featured speaker for the night will be the President of LIDS himself. His program will include the latest developments in digital recorder technology for extended playback. Voice training for the propagation checker on a budget. Injury prevention techniques related to repetitive voice box stress, recorder playback finger and wrist strain. Proper frequency selection techniques for the novice propagation checker including a review of recent studies conducted on 14.1965, 21.2965, and 28.4965Mhz. The effects of QRM from DXpeditions on propagation checking, and how to minimize interference from DXpeditions that insist on operating near designated propagation checking frequencies.

Several awards will be given out during the evening including, LIDS Volunteer of the Year, recognizing the LIDS member having done the most to promote the volunteer propagation checker system. The Long Call Checker Challenge Award for the checker with the longest playback digital recorder and of course the LIDS Award of Excellence that recognizes the most prolific checker of the year.

LIDS will once again have their hospitality suite at the convention located in the same room as last year (i.e. the small room with the blue triangle on the door, see www.n6dhz.com/lids.html), we know all of you will visit the hospitality suite at least once during the weekend.

We look forward to seeing you at dinner.

73 The LIDS Board

(Continued from page 2)

The Prez Sez

ake it to seriously it will cease to be fun and the whole point of all this is to have fun.

Speaking of fun it's time for DXer's worldwide to make their annual pilgrimage to Visalia. Linda and I will be leaving Thursday morning to get an early start. Although we will not be leaving as early as one member I know of who is leaving in the wee hours of the morning just to be sure to get his favorite parking spot. In just the few years that I have been going to the DX Convention I have learned that Visalia is full of traditions. For Linda and I it's getting in on Thursday and meeting a few friends in the lounge to visit for the afternoon while watching the door to see who will arrive next. We also have dinner on Friday with Larry, K6YUI and Steve, W6NRQ. This seems to be a growing event as a few years ago it was just the four of us, but last year we had 19 for dinner. Weather you traditions include the IOTA dinner or just looking for John and J.R. with their huge insulated mugs, I'm sure you will have another fun visit to Visalia.

73 and we will see you in Visalia
DE Jim, N6DHZ

NEXT MONTH

Watch for the SCDXC Annual Convention Issue

Who We Are

The SCDXC Newsletter is published monthly by the Southern California DX Club and is e-mailed to all club members.

Please notify the editor if you do not receive your newsletter, have a change of address, or have found an error.

Please direct all submissions to the editor.

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This newsletter is free to all club members. If you do not want it, send $25.00 to the editor and say UNSUBSCRIBE

WANTED

Hi capacity Power Supply for ham rig.
Must be fused.
Input 4400 VAC 3 phase 400 Hz.
Outputs
13.6 VDC @ 1500ma
Variable from 3.7 volts
Desktop configuration
Regulation — no load/full load 0.001%
Ripple:
< .03 percent full load.
Send specifications conditions and price to Kelvin at the club website.

FOR Sale or TRADE

POWER SUPPLY

Homebrew switcher designed for maximum reliability and lowest noise.
This floor mounted beauty is painted to look like an ottoman and has a cushion on the top.
Input is fused and can be set for 50-1600 Hz, 24V to 16000 Hz.
A single output rated at 0-20 VDC at 900.0 Amp has a Jones plug type of connector with two red terminals and one black.
The supply has three round 3.8 inch meters. Input Volts. Output Volts and current. The POWER ON function has a fifteen second time delay. Regulation is at least 5% and the ripple is 1 % with 150 volt spikes at the switching frequency
To see this gem contact Kevin at the club website.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, New or Renewal

Return to membership chairman: Larry Mallek 2528 Britain Way, Anaheim CA, 92801-1413

CALL _____ NAME _____ DATE _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

HOME TELEPHONE (____) ___ - _____ WORK TELEPHONE (____) ____ - _____

SCDXC Dues are $18.00 per year, make checks payable to SCDXC